

November 11, 2008

YAKIMA COUNTY FSA NEWS

Yakima County FSA

1606 Perry Street, Suite A
Yakima, WA 98902-5769
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Fax- (509) 454-5682

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

County Committee

Nadeen Boyle, Chairperson
Daniel T. Martinez, Vice-Chair.
Linda North-Spaulding, Member
Gilbert Gonzalez, Jr., Advisor
Carol Hull, Advisor

Office Staff

Sandy Christensen, PT
Maria De La Mora, PT
Jennifer DeWeese, PT
Martha Dorsey, COT
Sherry Fadden, PT
Crispin Garza, SCL
Brian Miller, CED
Kim Miller, PT
Todd Munson, FA
Lisa Ruff, FLM
Scott Smith, FLO

Next COC Meeting

December 5, 2008
9:00 AM

Dates to Remember

- November 11- Office closed for Veteran's Day
- November 26- DCP signup deadline
- November 27- Office closed for Thanksgiving Day
- December 1- COC Election voting deadline
- December 1- NAP application deadline

FSA Web Sites

State- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>
National- <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
USDA- <http://www.usda.gov>



United States
Department of
Agriculture

FSA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS



The final day to vote in the Committee election is **Monday, December 1.**

The elections are being held in Local Administrative Area #2 this year. This area consists of farms located in the lower Yakima Valley (south of the Rattlesnake Ridge), that are north and east of the Yakima River. Producers in this area will be electing a County Committee person and two alternates to serve a three-year term.

- **Lino Guerra** farms north of Sunnyside, and has owned a farm with rangeland for four years. Mr. Guerra is a member of the Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce, and Sunnyside Community Economic Development.
- **David R. Murray** farms north of Grandview, and has over eight years experience in the production of cherries.
- **Ubaldo Perez** farms north of Grandview, and has 18 years experience in the production of apples, cherries and alfalfa hay. Mr. Perez is currently an Alternate to the FSA County Committee.
- **Wes Underwood** farms south of Grandview, and has 27 years experience in the production of cherries. Mr. Underwood is a member of the Grandview Grange.
- **Judy Weddle** farms southeast of Grandview, and has 13 years experience in the production of beef cattle and hay.

The election ballots must be returned or postmarked by Monday, December 1, 2008. In addition, voters must sign the certification on the ballot envelope for the ballot to be considered valid! Producers who did not receive a ballot and feel like they should have, should contact our office. **Please take the time to vote for the candidate of your choice!**

NAP APPLICATION DEADLINE

The *Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)* application deadline for the following noninsurable crops is December 1, 2008:

- Most fall planted crops, including: onions, radish, carrots, canola, cabbage, and value loss crops such as Christmas trees, ornamental nursery, turf grass sod, cut flowers and mushroom coverage.
- Grass seed, legume and grass forage production and grazing coverage.
- Asparagus, berries, prunes & plums and other noninsurable perennial fruit and vegetable crops, and honey.

The cost of the coverage is \$250 per crop, not to exceed \$750 per producer, per county. Producers interested in this program should call our office for an appointment to apply.

The 2008 Farm Bill created new disaster assistance programs, made others permanent, and made changes to current programs. Most importantly, Congress tied all disaster assistance eligibility to producers obtaining a minimum CAT level of crop insurance or NAP coverage for uninsurable crops for all crops on all of a producer's farms.

SURE covers crop losses on the whole farm when the county receives a disaster designation or losses exceed 50% of the farm's total production. Payments are made on 60% of the difference between the SURE guarantee and total farm revenue. LFP provides a payment to ranchers who suffer losses due to drought or fire. TAP provides compensation to orchardists and nursery producers to replant trees and vines. ELAP addresses unique disasters not covered by any other program. LIP provides payment for loss of livestock.

Remember, all future disaster assistance eligibility is subject to producers obtaining a minimum CAT level of crop insurance or NAP coverage for uninsurable crops, for all crops on all of a producer's farms. Contact our office for more information.

DCP SIGNUP EXTENSION

A new provision allows for producers with farms with 10 or less total base acres to enroll the farm and receive payments under the Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) program for the 2008 program year. Producers

have until November 26, 2008 to apply for the DCP program under this new provision. Because of the short application period, producers should call the office for an appointment in advance of this date. Producers who have not already filed a 2008 crop acreage report will need file a report during this visit.

By signing a 2008 DCP contract, producers are also certifying that adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions are met, as provided

LOANS AVAILABLE

FSA has direct and guaranteed loan programs available for family-sized farm businesses. FSA's loan programs are designed to help farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit.

The loan limits for direct operating and farm ownership loans are \$300,000 each. The loan limit for guaranteed operating and farm ownership loans is a combined total of \$1,094,000. Funding is allocated for these programs after October 1 of each year.

Depending on the type of loan, funds can be used to purchase farms, livestock, and equipment, operate the farm, build or repair farm buildings, pay for water development for conservation practices and in some cases refinance debts. For additional information contact our office.

EMERGENCY LOANS

Producers in Yakima County may be eligible for emergency loans under the following disaster declaration. The declaration covers damages and losses caused by the following condition:

- Freezing temperatures which occurred April 22 through May 15, 2008; (*June 3, 2009 application deadline*)

For more information on emergency loans please contact our office.

2008 GRAIN LOANS AND LDP'S

All wheat, corn, barley, oats and grain sorghum are eligible for price support benefits for 2008.

Producers have a choice between taking out a regular 9-month Price Support Loan or receiving a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). The provisions for each are as follows:

LDP- Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) are not a loan they are a price support payment. LDP's can be made when the Posted County Price (PCP) falls below the county loan rate. There is a \$75,000 per person LDP payment limitation. Producers can check the LDP rates daily on the Internet from the link on the FSA home page: www.usda.gov/fsa

Producers must make an application for LDPs on form CCC-633EZ. The CCC-633EZ is a two-part form. By signing **Page 1** of the form before losing beneficial interest in the crop, you maintain your eligibility for LDP benefits. **Page 1** of the form only needs to be signed one time each crop year and covers all crops eligible for an LDP.

PRICE SUPPORT LOANS-

Regular 9 month loans on warehouse or farm stored grain at a reasonable interest rate (currently 3.25 %) can provide an excellent marketing tool for producers who wish to hold their grain for sale at a later date. The loan can be repaid at any time, and the repayment will be the lesser of the Posted County Price (PCP) or principal plus interest. The grain may be "forfeited" to FSA at loan maturity instead of repaying the loan principal and interest.

BANK CHANGES?

If you have a direct deposit request on file with our office, please remember to let us know if you change banks or account numbers. Sending funds to a closed account will delay your payments.

Se habla español en esta oficina de FSA. Si quiere información tocante a los programas de crédito, conservación y otros programas que suministra esta oficina, por favor visite o llame la oficina de FSA. El número de teléfono es (509) 454-5746. La dirección se encontra encima.